

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 024918

FOR AMBASSADOR MAILLIARD;CARACAS FOR ASST SECY ROGERS

FOLLOWING REPEAT OTTAWA 0407 ACTION SECSTATE INFO

BOGOTA SAN JOSE 30 JAN 76.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 0407

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, OAS, CA

SUBJ: OAS REFORM: US PROPOSALS

REF: STATE 018860

1. IF DEPARTMENT IS SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING BROACHING
SUBJECT OF FULL CANADIAN MEMBERSHIP IN OAS, EMBASSY
URGES THAT REPRESENTATION BE MADE ONLY TO GOC VERY
DISCREETLY, NEITHER PUBLICLY NOR EVEN PRIVATELY TO
THIRD COUNTRY FONMINS (AS IN BOGOTA OR SAN JOSE).

2. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL REFERENCE MADE BY PRESIDENT
KENNEDY BEFORE PARLIAMENT IN OTTAWA TO DESIRABILITY OF
CANADA'S JOINING OAS, A REMARK WHICH EXTAFF OFFICIAL
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LABELLED AT TIME AS SETTING BACK ANY POSSIBLE ACCEPTANCE

OF INVITATION BY AT LEAST TEN YEARS. DEPT WILL ALSO NOTE
REFERENCE MADE TO PM TRUDEAU'S CURRENT ATTITUDE IN
EMBASSY MEXICO TEL 1219 OF JAN 29 THAT "SINCE THE OAS IS IN
THE MIDST OF REORGANIZING ITSELF, TRUDEAU...DID
NOT THINK THE TIMING WAS RIGHT FOR CANADA TO JOIN,
AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT."

3. COMMENT: IT COULD BE A VERY LONG MOMENT. WHILE
GOC HAS INCREASED ITS PARTICIPATION IN OAS ORGANIZA-
TIONS AND ACTIVITIES OVER THE YEARS AND RAISED ITS
ROLE TO THAT OF PERMANENT OBSERVER, IT HAS SHIED
FROM FULL MEMBERSHIP PRINCIPALLY ON GROUND IT DID
NOT WANT TO JOIN CLUB WHERE IT COULD BE WHIPSAWED
BETWEEN US AND LATINS, LOSING BOTH WAYS. FURTHER
IMAGERY ALWAYS IN MIND IS THAT TO SIDE WITH US WOULD
IMPLY ASSUMPTION OF CANADIAN SATELLITE ROLE TO DIS-
TRESS OF LATINS, WHILE TO SIDE WITH LATINS WOULD
RISK WRATH OF GIANT US, CANADA'S MOST IMPORTANT
PARTNER. ISSUE OF CUBA ALONE WAS ENOUGH TO KEEP
CANADA FROM JOINING OAS.

4. PERHAPS OUTLOOK HAS CHANGED, ESPECIALLY WITH RE-
HABILITATION OF CUBA AND AT LEAST CANADIAN PERCEPTION
(PRE-ANGOLA) OF EARLY US-CUBAN RAPPROCHEMENT. EVEN
IF SO, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS BORE TEST IN EXTAFF FIRST
BEFORE DRILLING ELSEWHERE. JOHNSON UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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